



## Environmental and financial impact of a hospital recycling program

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### Abstract:

Recycling decreases greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted from waste disposal. A recent study determined the environmental and financial impact of recycling at a 148-bed acute care hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. The hospital added single-stream recycling to its nonhazardous waste disposal practices in September 2008. The study measured the amount of nonhazardous waste generated and disposal costs from September 2008 to March 2009 for comparison with the same 6-month period in 2007-2008, calculating the environmental benefit using the Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Reduction Model (WARM). This study revealed that recycling benefits the environment and saves money. Recycling reduced GHG emissions by 34 metric ton carbon equivalents (MTCEs) and saved 632 million BTUs of energy. Pearson correlation for waste generation ( $r$  Euro Surveillance (Bulletin Europeen Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 0.99,  $P$  Euro Surveillance (Bulletin Europeen Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) .002) demonstrates that the amount of waste generated between the control and intervention periods were very similar. Pearson correlation for facility operations as measured by admissions, outpatient visits, emergency room visits, and number of employees ( $r$  Euro Surveillance (Bulletin Europeen Sur Les Maladies Transmissibles; European Communicable Disease Bulletin) 0.99,  $P < .007$ ) also showed the 2 time periods to be very similar. The hospital's cost to dispose of nonhazardous waste decreased more than \$4,670 after single-stream recycling.

**Source:** [http://www.aana.com/newsandjournal/Documents/environmental\\_08res11\\_pS8-S14.pdf](http://www.aana.com/newsandjournal/Documents/environmental_08res11_pS8-S14.pdf)

### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure, Unspecified Exposure

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

United States

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

## **Health Impact:**

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

## **Medical Community Engagement:**

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

## **Model/Methodology:**

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Cost/Economic

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified